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Saguaro National Park News Release

14-59

For Immediate Release August 4, 2014 Contact: Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150

DRY WEATHER ANTICIPATED FOR DEER HEAD FIRE

Tucson, AZ – The Deer Head Fire remained at 850 acres on Sunday, with low fire activity due to lingering moisture from the previous day's storms. Yesterday, firefighters concentrated on improving control features already in place and reducing fuels along key park trails outside of the current fire area. Clearing brush and undergrowth from these trails now will give firefighters a head-start, should fire activity levels increase this week. Today's work includes widening and improving the control lines already in place, and more fuel reduction as needed.

Meteorologists predict a temporary lull in monsoon moisture this week along with increased temperatures, which may lead to elevated fire activity. With the fire continuing to be managed for the benefit of natural resources, fire managers plan to conduct burnout operations later in the week to protect Manning Camp should the fire move in that direction. With a drying trend in place, and the plan for burnout operations, residents and visitors may see additional smoke in the fire area this week.

Although the 30-acre Jackalope Fire was declared fully contained Saturday afternoon, firefighters continue to monitor the area for fire activity within the perimeter. As a result, the Tanque Verde Trail and Juniper Basin Campground will remain closed until further notice. A decision to reopen both Tanque Verde Trail and Juniper Basin Campground will occur after the Jackalope Fire is declared controlled. All of the Rincon Mountain District backcountry closures remain in effect for the duration of the Deer Head Fire to ensure public safety.

For additional fire information visit: http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/ or: http://Facebook.com/SaguaroNationalPark or call the Fire Information Hotline at (520) 733-5150.